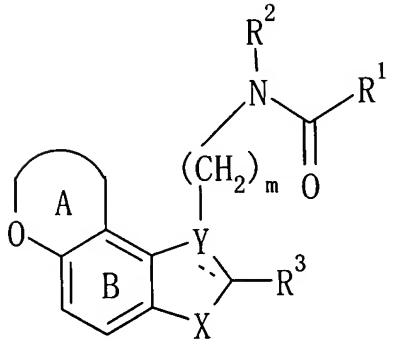
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 **(Cancelled)**

Claim 2 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 ~~containing~~ comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, ~~and~~ a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and ~~a nonionic surfactant~~ lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same.

Claim 3 **(Original)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 2, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound having a melatonin ML_1 receptor agonist activity.

Claim 4 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4, O or S in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH_2, Y is C or CH;

------ represents a single bond or a double bond;

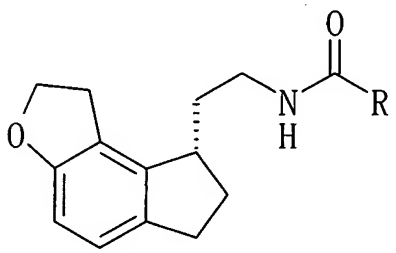
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 5 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

Claim 6 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

Claim 7 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide.

Claim 8 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is an ester of a carboxylic acid having 6 to 22 carbon atoms and an alkyl alcohol having 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, butyl myristate, or diethyl sebacate.

Claim 10 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate.

Claim 11 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, glycerin or polyethylene glycol.

Claim 12 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ~~propyleneglycol~~ propylene glycol.

Claim 13 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol.

Claim 14 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 200 to about 1000.

Claims 15-16 **(Cancelled)**

Claim 17 **(Currently Amended)**: A ~~The~~ percutaneous absorption preparation ~~according to claim 16, wherein the fatty acid amide is~~ comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

Claim 18 **(Cancelled)**

Claim 19 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 ~~containing~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide, isopropyl myristate, ~~polyethyleneglycol~~ polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 20 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 ~~containing~~ comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, ~~polyethyleneglycol~~ polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 21 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 which is a skin plaster.

Claim 22 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 ~~containing in a skin contact member~~ a , wherein the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity ~~and~~ , the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, and the optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters~~,~~ and polyhydric alcohols ~~and nonionic surfactants~~ , are contained in a skin contact member.

Claim 23 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in a skin contact member~~, wherein the ~~a~~ compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity, ~~and~~ a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and ~~a nonionic surfactant~~ the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, are contained in the skin contact member.

Claim 24 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~, an~~ comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of fatty acid ester with respect to ~~a~~ the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 25 **(Currently Amended)** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~, an~~ comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of polyhydric alcohol with respect to ~~a~~ the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 26 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~, an~~ comprises about 1 to about 15% by weight of ~~nonionic surfactant~~ lauric diethanolamide with respect to ~~a~~ the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 27 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~,~~ includes an adhesive agent.

Claim 28 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27, wherein the adhesive agent is an acrylic adhesive agent.

Claim 29 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~,~~ comprises ~~an~~ about 0.01 to about 70% by weight of the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity with respect to ~~a~~ the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 30 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27 ~~containing in~~ , wherein the ~~a~~ skin contact member~~,~~ comprises ~~an~~ about 5 to about 99% by weight of the adhesive agent with respect to ~~a~~ the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 31 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, ~~wherein a content of~~ which comprises about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm^2 of the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity per unit skin contact surface of ~~a~~ the skin contact member ~~is about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm^2~~.

Claim 32 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~containing in a~~ , wherein the skin contact member~~,~~ further comprises a filler.

Claim 33 **(Original)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 32, wherein the filler is silicon dioxide.

Claim 34 **(Cancelled)**

Claim 35 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood for about 6 hours to about 12 hours.

Claim 36 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood until about 1 to about 2 hours before waking up.

Claim 37 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein an effective blood concentration of the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity exhibits a one peak pattern within 12 hours after administration.

Claim 38 **(Currently Amended)**: The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 37, wherein ~~a peak of~~ the effective blood concentration of the compound having ~~a~~ the melatonin receptor agonist activity ~~appears~~ peaks within about 10 hours after administration.

Claim 39 **(Currently Amended)**: A ~~preventive and therapeutic~~ method of treating diseases related to melatonin, ~~characterized by~~ which comprises administrating ~~a~~ the percutaneous absorption preparation ~~which contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants~~ according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

Claim 40 **(Currently Amended)**: A method for percutaneous absorption ~~method~~ of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering ~~wherein the~~ the percutaneous absorption preparation ~~contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants~~ according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.

Claim 41 **(Cancelled)**

Claim 42 **(New)**: The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.